

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 25 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention further relates to an ~~aparatus~~ apparatus to determine the spatial distribution of magnetic particles in an area of examination in an object of examination, comprising FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of this apparatus (200). The apparatus comprises:

means (210) to generate a magnetic field with a spatial distribution of the magnetic field strength such that the area of examination (10) consists of a first sub-area (12) with lower magnetic field strength and a second sub-area (14) with a higher magnetic field strength,

means (220) to change the spatial location of both sub-areas in the area of examination so that the magnetization of the particles changes locally,

means (230) for the acquisition of signals that depend on the magnetization in the area of examination influenced by this change, and

means (240) for the evaluation of said signals to obtain information about the spatial distribution of the signals in the area of examination,

means (220) to superimpose in the area of examination, more particularly, in at least parts of the first sub-area (12) with lower magnetic field strengths, a varying magnetic field at least some of the time, more particularly periodically or continuously.

Please add the following new paragraphs prior to the paragraph at page 3, line 3:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 shows a flowchart illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a method to

prevent or reduce agglomeration of magnetic particles wherein the magnetic particles are exposed to a varying magnetic field.

FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of an apparatus to determine the spatial distribution of magnetic particles in an area of examination in an object of examination.